

**Republican Valley Library System Board Meeting
September 5, 2014
Jensen Memorial Library
Minden, Nebraska**

PRESENT: Dixie Codner, Jody Crocker, Annette Eisenhart, Beth Falla, Jane Hilton, Pat Hughes, Tim Johnson, Mo Khamouna, Vicki Perrie, Dana Wade.

ABSENT: Robyn Johnston, Sky Seery.

ALSO PRESENT: Denise Harders (System Director), Richard Miller (NLC Rep), Janene Hill (JML Library Director), Terri Johnson (guest).

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Jody Crocker called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (6.6.14) Dana Wade moved to accept the minutes, Vicki Perrie seconded. The minutes were approved as read.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Denise noted that the budget looks different because it is a six-month budget and because it cannot be cut in half because expenditures don't fall equally throughout the year. RVLS is one-third of the way through the six-month budget (i.e., two months through the six-month period). Utilities are high because we are awaiting E-rate reimbursements. Under "Expenses" there is a credit in the "Disc Cleaning Income" line because we have not yet expended anything for that, but we do have people paying for disc cleaning.

Pat Hughes moved to approve the financial report, Tim Johnson seconded. The financial report was accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Sherry Houston sent a thank-you for her attendance at the RVLS annual meeting citing especially the visit to the Frank Lloyd Wright house, and noting that RVLS is the "best System."
- Beth Falla and Lisa Fortkamp sent thanks for the RVLS annual meeting and for the flowers, adding that the food was "too good."
- Lois Hafer from ESU 9 (and a CCC student in Hastings) thanked RVLS for their interview of Denise for a class project. Denise noted that this interview has resulted in her being invited to speak to the school librarians in ESU 9, offering a shortened "Making Space for Maker Spaces" presentation.
- Scott Childers from Southeast Library System sent a thank you for Denise's presentation at the SELS Training Extravaganza at which she did two sessions of the "Weeding is Fun" program.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Denise referred to the green sheets in the Board packet with details on what has been going on and on her activities. She also noted the following:

- Denise thanked Janene Hill, library director of Jensen Memorial Library, for hosting today's RVLS Board meeting. She asked Janene to say a few words. Janene noted several recent developments at the library: new shelving now installed; the broken window; work on library policies and procedures, particularly the library's own personnel policies; and examination of the possibility of switching to the Pioneer ILS.

- Denise noted that Shelly Reed is back as director of Sutton Memorial Library.
- Dixie Codner is the new Learning Resource Center Supervisor at Central Community College -- Grand Island.
- By January we will have changed over to the new reconfigured System.
- In Arapahoe Valerie Leising is the new school librarian at Arapahoe-Holbrook High School. She is also the band instructor, and has begun taking classes at UNK for a master's in library science. Under the previous director, also PE teacher, a lot of collection weeding was done, but some clutter remained in the library. Denise and Valerie helped restore order to the place.
- Denise has been helping a number of public libraries with their strategic plans in relation to their seeking accreditation in 2014.
- Cindee Wagner from Culbertson Public Library is attending the national ARSL conference in Tacoma. (Later in the meeting Dana Wade reported that the bids for the new library came in almost double the estimated cost, so back to the drawing board.)
- There is a lot going on in Hastings with restructuring at the public library. (The library eliminated the assistant director position, so long-time staffer Pam Bohmfalk was out of a job – she now is working for Hastings College library; Kathy Schulz, long-time children's librarian has retired.) Bob Nedderman retired as director at Hastings College's Perkins Library, and Susan Franklin took over as director.
- Marcia Wortman is retiring as director at Klyte Burt Memorial Library in Curtis.

EXTENDING THE SERVICE OF OFFICERS: As an action item Denise proposed that the current Board officers extend their service for six months during the interim period instead of the Board electing new officers (which would normally happen at this meeting). Jane Hilton moved, and Mo Khamouna seconded that this proposal be approved. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

- **NLC Office Technology/CE Grant:** Denise reported that instead of spending this entire grant on office technology or on CE, she split it as approved at the RVLS annual meeting and purchased a Dell Tablet and a small laptop for a total of \$539 through TechSoup. The balance will be spent on attending the NLA/NSLA Conference in South Sioux City in October. Denise noted that she plans to spend only two nights at the conference since NLA did not approve the Systems' pre-conference proposal to bring a speaker in from Iowa. There was some discussion about mileage to South Sioux City, conference registration costs, etc., and Terri Johnson noted that six staff members from North Platte Public Library plan to attend.
- **RVLS Grants:** Denise described the grants monies that will be distributed by liquidating the CD currently held by RVLS, for providing money for any kind of programming or CE for staff in RVLS libraries. There is \$15,650.90 available. The deadline to submit an application is to be postmarked no later than September 30. Grants will be decided by a drawing after that date.
- **Nebraska Regional Library Systems Reorganization:** Denise offered details about what has been accomplished so far.
 - Jody Crocker, Sky Seery, and Jennifer Einspahr met with three representatives from Meridian Library System, as well as Rod Wagner and Richard Miller to compare and harmonize the two sets of by-laws from RVLS and MLS. Not difficult; quite similar.

- On August 28th, Denise and Sharon Osenga met with attorney Trev Peterson about the merger. He will give the Systems a “plan of merger.” The RVLS 501(c)(3) will remain, and MLS will merge into it. The assets of the MLS will also merge into the new System. In November Denise will bring to the RVLS Board the plan of merger for approval; this would not require a face-to-face meeting. If approved by the Board, a ballot will be sent out by first-class mail to all RVLS member libraries for approval. Several questions/issues were raised on this:
 - It appeared the Board wishes to meet face-to-face for this approval.
 - What happens to the member libraries moving to a different System? (Answer: They vote on this merger as well.)
 - Does there have to be a certain number of libraries voting for approval for it to be approved? (Denise and Sharon will clarify with the attorney.) Note: For ELS and NELS merger, the vote will be taken during the NLA/NSLA Conference in October. According to the attorney, a quorum consists of whoever shows up to that meeting. The vote is viewed as a formality.
 - The four new Systems will function more as a “statewide service,” with any member libraries being able to attend workshops, etc. in any System.
 - This merged System will have two MLS librarians until October 2017 when Sharon Osenga retires; then it will have one MLS librarian as director.
 - The RVLS Hastings office will remain open and Kay will remain as assistant; the MLS office will move to smaller quarters.
 - The name of the merged System will be “Central Plains Library System (CPLS) – pending approval from the Nebraska Secretary of State’s office.

NEW BUSINESS

- **New System’s Board:**
 - Currently MLS has 9 Board members; RVLS has 12 members.
 - The transition team said the merged System should aim for 11 to 15 Board members. The suggestion was to start with 15 and allow the Board to move to 11 members as terms end.
 - MLS goes to 7 Board members soon with terms ending. RVLS goes to 7 members with board terms ending as well. So there will be 7 representatives from each of the current Systems, and the addition of Judy Hagan from one of the new counties. Judy is currently the Board President from NELS.
 - Denise distributed a list of the expected 15 Board members.
 - Everyone appeared to be fine with the list. There was some discussion of how the RVLS Board is more connected than perhaps that of MLS.
 - Denise will contact all the other System Directors to recommend that they share their respective newsletters with new counties moving into other Systems.
 - A good discussion ensued about inviting/taking along the System Administrator to be to meetings – as Denise did when she invited Eric Green from PLS to attend the RVLS annual meeting so that he could talk to member libraries that will be moving into the currently named Panhandle Library System.
- **Digital Article Request Service:** Denise distributed a handout from SELS entitled, “Enroll In Journal Article Request Service.” She explained how this would work and asked the Board if it is

interested in providing this service in RVLS. Several Board members and Richard Miller shared comments, concerns, etc.:

- Copyright concerns were raised and answered sufficiently.
- The issue of this information already being available in the statewide databases was raised; timeliness of this service versus the information in the databases (which takes some time to appear) was mentioned.
- RVLS would continue to route physically *Booklist* even if this service is approved since it would have to copy the entire issue, which is not allowed.
- Vicki Perrie moved, and Pat Hughes seconded approval of this service for RVLS. It was approved without dissent.

NLC COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

In the absence of Steve Batty, no report was given.

NLC COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Richard Miller reported on the following: Kreutz Bennett Donor Advised Fund Grants for communities with populations below 3,000 (deadline: October 1); the "Friday Reads" columns on the Commission's blog; Youth Grants for Excellence (deadline: October 1); the book, *I Am a Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice*, now available to blind/visually impaired via BARD; two NEH grants (deadlines of September 11, and December 3); Library Performers Database; SBA Disaster Loans; monthly free webinars list; library foundations nation-wide discussion list from United for Libraries; Basic Skills classes through year's end; upcoming NCompass Live programs; "Throwback Thursdays" column on the Commission's website, with old photos of libraries; Dollar General Literacy Foundation "The American Dream Starts @your library"; and staffing news at the Commission – Sam Shaw hired as Planning and Data Services Coordinator, and Linda Jensen in Library Development recently married and now named Linda Babcock.